Linking of Darjeeling and Sikkim with broad gauge line

4180. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to connect Darjeeling and Sikkim by broad gauge rail line;

(b) if so, whether any survey is being conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the above places are likely to be connected by broad gauge line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a survey for a new BG line from Sivok to Gangtok via Giellekhole and Singtam has been taken up. Further consideration of the proposal will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Facilities in AC-3 Coaches of Rajdhani Express

4181. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision was taken to provide Linen Room, Hot case and a Water cooler in all AC-3 coaches of Rajdhani Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that same facilities are not provided in Howrah Rajdhani Express;

(d) if so, the reason therefor;

(e) the time by which the said facilities are likely to be provided in the said train; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In AC-3 Tier coaches of Rajdhani Express in Linen room and a hot case are provided.

(c) and (d) As the Howrah Rajdhani coaches were of earlier design, some of the AC-3 Tier coaches did not have these facilities.

(e) The Howrah Rajdhani AC-3 Tier coaches are gradually being modified (in Workshop) to provide for this facility. This work is likely to be completed during this year.

(f) Does not arise.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

4182. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDARAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that thousands of applicants are on the waiting list for telephone connections under Cannanore Secondary Switching Area in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to clear the back log;

(c) whether the Government are aware that there is dearth of equipments/machinery at many of the Telephone Exchanges in Cannanore Secondary Switching Area; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to supply machinery/equipments for Cannanore Switching area?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The waiting list as on 28.2.1997 in Cannanore Secondary Switching Area is 87697.

The number of new telephone connections added during 1996-97 as on 28.2.1997 is 10516 and connections likely to be added during March, 1997 is 3000.

There are 113 exchanges in the Secondary Switching Area, out of these 88 exchanges are proposed for expansion during 1997-98 resulting an addition of net capacity of 58000 lines.

Construction of New Railway Terminus

4183. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any demand to construct new railway terminus at Dahanu road station in Western Railway;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be commenced at the said terminus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Medical Facilities to ITDC Employees

4184. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of the India Tourism Development Corporation hotels are not entitled for treatment in CGHS dispensaries/Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is no ESI dispensary within a radius of two kilometers near the area where the